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Janata Cabinet : Birth Pangs

BY Tuesday (Mar. 22) it was quite clear that the Janata Front had won a comfortable majority in the Lok Sabha.

Shortly after 11 a.m. on that day the Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, submitted her resignation and that of her cabinet marking the end of an era described by Kuldip Nayar of the Indian Express as "neither altogether white nor black".

Meeting for the second day, the National Committee of the Janata Party passed a resolution thanking the people for the trust and confidence reposed by them in the party. The party position on that day with results for 537 of 542 seats known was : Janata 269, Congress for Democracy 28, CPM 22, Congress 152, CPI 7, others 51, Independents 8.

Then started the birth pangs of the new Janata Cabinet. Here is a day-to-day development as reported in the Pro Janata Press:

TUESDAY : MAR. 22 :

The General Secretary of the Janata Party told a Press Conference that before the election of the leader, the question of the merger of CFD with Janata Party would be decided. Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan who will be arriving in the Capital on the next day (Mar. 23) will have discussions with the leaders of both the parties, he said.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, the CFD President, told a Press conference in the afternoon : "We have no closed mind on the subject". He also made it clear that there had been no exchange as such on the issue of leadership with the Janata Party.

Asked to comment on the appeal of J. P. to the CFD to unite with the Janata Party, Mr. Ram said all these things will be considered at the CFD meeting the next day.

Later, asked for the correct position, Mr. Advani said the Janata party leaders had requested the CFD before and after the election that it should merge with Janata and become "one with us". Mr. Ram had stated that the matter would be considered immediately after the election.

MR. MORARJI DESAI

In a statement, the Jayaprakash Narayan warned : "The people are expecting a change in the political style. While some pressures and pulls are an usual part of democratic polity, manipulative politics is both self-defeating and inappropriate in the context of mass awakening and upsurge. I am sure all the newly elected representatives will bear this in mind".

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

Following day long consultations at various interparty and intra party levels and after separate meetings in the right the Janata Party President, Mr. Morarji Desai and CFD chief had with Mr. Jayaprakash an "understanding" over the method of selection of the leader of the Janata Parliamentary party was reported.

According to the "understanding", at an informal meeting on the next day (Thursday) the 271 members of the Janata Party and 28 of the CFD will indicate their preference individually to Mr. Jayaprakash and Mr. J. B. Kripalani.

The choice for leadership appeared to be between the 81-year old Mr. Morarji Desai and 69-year old Mr. Jagjivan Ram.

The procedure was to be as follows : The Janata–CFD members will meet shortly after a pledge taking ceremony at Raj Ghat. They will be asked to give their preference in writing to Mr. Jayaprakash and Mr. Kripalani. At the end, the two veterans will indicate to members the name on which concensus was emerged. He will later be formally elected leader at the meeting of the Janata–CFD Parliamentary party at the central Hall of Parliament. The verdict will be immediately conveyed to the Acting President. The new Prime Minister will be sworn in by the evening.

While the CFD will function as part of the Janata Party in Parliament, its formal merger will take place after some time, it was said.

Mr. Jayaprakash, looking tired and fatigued, started meeting various leaders at the Gandhi Peace Foundation immediately on arrival. The two claimants placed their respective viewpoints in support of their claims.

Mr. Ashoka Mehta, a Janata Party leader, replying to questions at a Press conference on the Janata–CFD merger said, "we are committed to political consolidation". The Janata Party has been operating on the assumption that the CFD would do accordingly. However, there must be a commitment of this in principle now. The two had gone to the polls with a common symbol and there was anxiety to become one. "To the best of my knowledge no conditions have been put by the CFD for the merger".

The CFD National committee at a two-hour meeting in the afternoon authorised its President, Mr. Jagjivan Ram "to take appropriate action" on the merger issue.

Mr. Ram later told reporters that it had to be decided whether the merger should be at the organisational level or should be confined to the joint working in Parliament. The final decision would have to be taken tonight or latest by tomorrow morning.

The terms of agreement with the Janata would depend on the course of the talks they had, Mr. Ram said.

Would he meet the Janata Party leaders, he was asked. "If they want I will meet," he replied.

Would he take the initiative? It would be mutual, he said. There was no question of taking initiative.

Would he take a decision on the merger issue after meeting Mr. Jayaprakash, he was asked. Not necessarily, he replied.

"What will influence you in taking the decision", a reporter asked. And Mr. Ram said, "the functioning of the two parties in Parliament."

Asked whether he would take his decision by midnight, he said: "I will not ask you to burn midnight oil."

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Mr. Morarji Desai was sworn in as Prime Minister at 3-30 p.m. in the presence of senior Janata

MR. JAGJIVAN RAM

Party leaders. Mr. Y. B. Chavan, leader of the Congress Parliamentary. Party, was also present and greeted the new Prime Minister.

The developments were dramatic. The previous day's "Understanding" was ignored.

A joint meeting of the Janata and CFD members were held at the Gandhi Peace Foundation Hall in the morning. Mr. Jayaprakash and Acharya Kripalani were authorised, by a unanimous resolution, to decide the issue of leadership. The CFD leaders,

(Contd. on page 2)

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

Faith transcends reason. All I can advise is not to attempt the impossible. I cannot account for the existence of evil by any rational method. To want to do so is to be co-equal with God.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY April 3, 1977

UNDEMOCRATIC START

The Janata Party and its allies which won the Lok Sabha elections with the slogan "Democracy or Dictatorship" has started with the most undemocratic method in selecting its leader.

Delhi witnessed the worst type of horse-trading among top leaders for important Cabinet posts. A consensus plan was considered and given up. The BLD leader, Mr. Charan Singh was wielding unusual powers from the nursing home to prevent Mr. Jagjivan Ram from becoming the Prime Minister.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram next aspired to become the Deputy Prime Minister. He didn't get it. At last he got the deflated (the external emergency has also been lifted) Defence Ministry, which he once held under Smt. Indira Gandhi.

Meanwhile, Mr. Morarji Desai got himself sworn-in hurriedly without his Cabinet ministers (against the Constitutional provision). Other Ministers came in later.

Mr. George Fernandes could not take a decision. To be or not to be in Morarji's Cabinet was his problem. He was gheroed and he yielded.

Mr. Raj Narain was reluctant. Finally he was persuaded to accept Health and Family Planning on condition that he should be called only Minister of Health, omitting Family Planning from the title.

Fortunately for the Cabinet makers, the Imam of Delhi was in hospital. He had told a Delhi Janata Party Public meeting (broadcast twice by the AIR) that the Muslim candidate should be his nominee.

All these days, the misled voters of the Hindi belt area were upset over their choice. Unless J. P.'s scheme of 'recall' becomes the law, the country will be condemned to six years of rule by an unholy combination of differing interests.

The only hope now is the election to State Assemblies. We hope the Hindi States people will correct their mistake.

From Page 1

Janata Cabinet: Birth Pangs

Mr. Jagjivan Ram and Mr. Bahuguna attended the meeting.

Later, at a meeting of party members, which was not attended by Mr. Jagjivan Ram and Mr. Bahuguna, Mr. L. K. Advani Janata General Secretary, announced the election of Mr. Morarji Desai as leader. Representatives of Janata Party's allies were present.

Acharya Kripalani, who presided, said it was the considered opinion of both Mr. Jayaprakash (he had arrived in a wheel chair) and himself that Mr. Morarji Desai should be the leader. This was received with thunderous applause.

Mr. Kripalani described Mr. Jagjivan Ram as a "tired soldier" and said:" we take it that he will take a decision accordingly, as he has always done. He is a very lovable person and a man of great qualities of head and heart and therefore we hope that he will take the decision sincerely and come with us."

The Acharya also pointed out that if there was provision for two Prime Ministers, they would have selected both of them (Mr. Desai and Mr. Ram). But the Constitution provides for only one. "We have given this award and I hope it will be acceptable to you all." The party endorsed the selection.

Later, Acting-President Jatti invited Mr. Morarji Desai to form the Government. The swearing in ceremony took place at 3-30 p.m.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, who did not attend the meeting at which Mr. Desai was elected leader, said in a statement later that his party would function as a separate group in Parliament. But he assured all support to the new Government.

What happened between the Joint meeting at the Gandhi Peace Foundation and the Janata Parliamentary Party meeting at the Central Hall of Parliament House?

Mr. Kuldip Nayar of the Indian Express reports: "Till this morning it was expected that the CFD headed by Jagjivan Ram would be part of the ruling alliance. But it has preferred not to join the Government although it has officially promised its support to Mr. Desai.

"The contention of the CFD is that the formula of consensus agreed to last night had been abandoned, even before it was given a fair trial.

"But that the consensus had perhaps become irrelevent, when Mr. Charan Singh, the BLD leader commanding roughly 65 votes wrote a letter to Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan this morning to say that the BLD would not support Mr. Jagjivan Ram for Prime Ministership.

MR. Y. B. CHAVAN

"With already 50 odd Congress (O) members, the Akalis and many others on Mr. Desai's side, both J. P. and J. B. Kripalani, who were asked to determine the consensus decided not to waste time in going through the process of balloting individual members' opinion.

"Jan Sangh with the largest group, nearly 90 members, had left the matter completely with JP even though by and large, the members were in favour of Mr. Desai.

"The CPM did not participate in the process of assesing who between Mr. Desai and Mr. Jagjivan Ram had the largest support. But a few members of the Party said since they could be exposing the misdeeds of the last Government in the past 20 months, it might be embarrassing for Jagjivan Ram if he headed the new Government.

"After receiving Mr. Charan Singh's letter, which Mr. Raj Narain brought, JP tried to bring about a rapprochement. But his efforts to make Mr. Jagjivan Ram and Mr Bahuguna join the Government failed."

Meanwhile, Mr. Ram Dhan has resigned from the General Secretaryship of the Janata Party. In a written statement he has said: "Ever since the victory of the Janata Party—CFD alliance and its allies in the Lok Sabha elections the question of leadership was discussed in more than one way and on several occassions. Finally it was decided to leave the matter to the Party. The decision was communicated by Janata Party's leaders Shri J. B. Kripalani and Babu Jayaprakashji to the leaders of the allies of the Janata Party. But overnight, the democratic process was given a go-by and the matter was left to be decided in the dictatorial style of Congress."

Mr. George Fernandes has said that the manner of selection of the leader of the Janata Party has not been a happy experience. "Pledged words should not be broken and democratic process should not be sacrificed in an effort to create what is termed as consensus but can amount to foisting the point of view of a group."

Asked at a Press conference if he thought that the refusal of the CFD to join the Government was a bad augury, Mr. Morarji Desai said: "Even such things become good auguries I do not think anything is a bad augury in life. It is only when we lose courge that things become bad. It is difficulties which test your courage."

Soon after the announcement of the election of Mr. Morarji Desai, a group of people colected outside Mr. Jagjivan Ram's house and shouted slogans against the Janata Party.

Their main slogans were: "Betrayal by the Janata Party will not be tolerated" and "down with capitalism".

Mr. Chandrasekhar, who arrived at the scene, pacifying the crowd pleaded with them not to worry about the leadership issue. He assured them that nothing irregular or against the rule would be allowed to take place.

Mr. Bahuguna who also came out said: "Ours was not a quarrel for power. What we were told last night was that there would be an election (for leadership) which had not taken place this morning. Therefore we have told them that we will sit separately."

He asserted that his party would fight against all attempts at undermining democracy.

At the time of the slogan-shouting demonstration, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, Mr. Nanaji Deshmukh, Mr. Biju Patnaik, Mr. Shanti Bhushan and Mr. Mohan Dharia were with Mr. Jagjivan Ram.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Hectic political activity continued throughout the day in the

(Contd. on page 7)

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET

The following are the highlights of the Interim Budget estimates for 1977-78 presented to the Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister, Shri H. M. Patel:

Receipts next year, net of States' share of taxes duties, are estimated at Rs. 14910 crores, and expenditure at Rs. 1.542 leaving deficit of Rs. 632 crores.

Gross tax revenue is estimated at Rs. 8720 crores. The States' share of taxes and duties will be Rs. 1788 crores.

Thus, the net tax revenue of the Central Government will be Rs. 6932 crores comprising Union Excise duties Rs. 3453 crores, Customs Rs. 1587 crores, Corporation Tax Rs. 1243 crores, Income tax Rs. 327 crores, and othes taxes and duties Rs. 322 crores.

Non tax revenue including interest and dividend receipts will be Rs. 2347 crores. Market loans are estimated at Rs. 890 crores external loans Rs. 894 crores and loan repayments Rs. 1703 crores. Small Savings and Provident Fund collections together are placed at Rs. 627 crores Other capital receipts are estimated at Rs. 1517 crores.

Total estimated expenditure of Rs. 15542 crores comprises development outlay of Rs. 8920 crores (57 per cent), defence outlay of Rs. 2808 crores, interest payments of Rs. 1600 crores, statutory and other transfer to State and Union Territory Governments of Rs. 781 crores and other expenditure of Rs 1433 crores.

Development outlay of Rs. 8920 crores comprises Rs. 5208 crores on economic services, Rs. 867 crores on social and community services and Rs. 2536 crores on assistance to State and Union Territory Governments for development purposes as also Rs 9 crores of Plan expenditure included under general services.

Resources transferred to State and Union Territory Governments include Rs. 1788 crores of States share of taxes and duties, Rs. 2536 crores for development purposes and Rs. 781 crores as statutory and other grants loans.

Plan outlay of Rs. 5788 crores is inclusive of Central Plan outlay (Rs. 4096 crores), Central Assistance for State Plans (Rs. 1525 crores) and Union Territory Plan provision (Rs. 167 crores).

The Central Plan provision includes substantial allocation to Agriculture (Rs. 495 crores), Industry and Minerals Rs. 2058 crores) Water and Power Development (Rs. 246 crores, including Rs. 66 crores for the Rural Electrification Corporation programmes in the State sector), Transport and Communications (Rs. 702 crores) and Social and Community Services (Rs. 595 crores).

— —

Budget For Tamil Nadu

The Finance Minister, Shri H. M. Patel presented to the Lok Sabha on March 28 the budgets for 1977-78 for the States of Tamil Nadu and Nagaland and the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Seeking a vote-on-account for five months for the two States and the Union Territory, Shri Patel disclosed a deficit of Rs. 13.92 crores for 1977-78 in the case of Tamil Nadu. The current financial year will close with a negative balance of Rs. 2.98 crores. The major factor which had led to the increase in the revenue deficit is the expenditure on drought relief and flood relief.

The Finance Minster said that the State's next year's minus cash balance of Rs. 13.92 crores would be eliminated through a variety of measures including economies, better collection of taxes and other dues to Government and by improving financial performance of the public sector Corporations.

— —

Railways' Annual Plan

Shri Madu Dandavate, Minister for Railways said in New Delhi on Mar 28, while seeking 'vote on account' for expenditure that the Railways had been allotted Rs. 5038 million for their works, machinery and rolling stock programme for 1977-78.

This amount includes Rs. 28 million to meet the working capital for manufacture of rolling stock for export, Rs. 120 million for investment in State Road Transport Undertakings, Rs. 100 million for the Metropolitan Transport Projects and Rs. 10 million for investment in the Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd.

In the Annual Plan for 1977-78, the share of new lines and restoration of dismantled lines is Rs. 235.8 million. Of this Rs. 216 8 million are earmarked for the 16 project-oriented lines and Rs. 19 million for 10 developmental lines. The allocation for electrification projects is of the order of Rs 190 million.

Do You Know

How Government Accounts Are Kept

The Government accounts are kept in three parts namely (i) Consolidated Fund, (ii) Contingency Fund, and (iii) Public Account.

All revenues realised by Government, loans raised and also receipts by way of repayments of loans granted by Government form the Consolidated Fund. All expenditure of Government is incurred from this Fund and no amount can be withdrawn from the Fund without authorisation from Parliament.

The Contingency Fund is an imprest placed at the disposal of the President to meet urgent unforeseen expenditure by the Government pending authorisation from Parliament. Parliamentary approval for such expenditure and the withdrawal of an equivalent amount from the Consolidated Fund is subsequently obtained and the amount spent from Contingency Fund is recouped to the Fund.

The corpus of the Contingency Fund authorised by the Parliament at present is Rs. 50 crores.

Besides the normal receipts and expenditure of Government which relate to the Consolidated Fund, certain other transaction enter Government account in respect of which Government acts more as a banker, for example, transaction relating to Provident Funds, small savings collections and other deposits. The moneys thus received are kept in the public account and the connected disbursements are also made therefrom. The Public Account funds do not belong to Government and have to be paid back to the depositors. Parliamentary authorisation for such payments is therefore, not required.

Certain items of expenditure like emoluments of the President, salaries and allowances of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, salaries, allowances and pensions of Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, interest on and repayment of loans raised by Government and payments made to satisfy decrees of Courts etc. are charged on the Consolidated Fund.

The "Vote on Account" is not intended for "New Services" but only seeks to meet the expenditure during April-July 1977 1/3rd of the total provision for 1977-78.

The Rupee : The Way It Comes And Goes

According to the Interim Budget for 1977-78, out of every rupee which the Finance Minister will collect during the next year, 22 paise will come from Excise, 10 paise from Customs, 8 paise from Corporation Tax, 2 paise from Income-tax and 2 paise from other taxes. Non-tax revenue will yield 15 paise, loan recoveries 11 paise, market loans, small savings and provident funds 10 paise, external loans 6 paise and other receipts 10 paise. The deficit of 4 paise remains uncovered.

From every rupee thus collected, Government will spend 37 paise on Plan and 20 paise on other development expenditure. Defence will cost 18 paise, interest payments 11 paise, statutory and other transfers to States and Union Territories 5 paise and other expenditure 9 paise.

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FUN AND LAUGHTER

HEAD FIRST

While working on a log drive, a lumberman fell into the water. At last, dizzy and nearly exhausted, he managed to grasp a big log and hold on to it. The current was so strong and swift that it swept his body under the log until his feet stuck out on the other side.

Just as a comrade, who had hurried to his rescue, grabbed him by the shoulders, he caught sight of his own feet protruding on the other side of the log.

"I can hold on a bit longer, Jun," he gasped. "Save that fellow who's in head first."

* * *

EASY TO FIND

She was ill in bed and her husband was making her a cup of tea. "I can't find the tea," he called out.

"I don't know what could be easier to find," she answered. "It is right in front on the pantry shelf in a cocoa tin marked matches."

* * *

"So far as the wife is concerned it's just a case of mind over matter; old man. She doesn't mind and I don't matter!"

* * *

CAN'T HIT

Brown was proud of his golf and had brought his mother-in-law along to watch him play.

"I'm particularly anxious to make a long drive just now," he said to his friend. "My mother-in-law is over there and I..."

"Don't be a fool," snapped the other. "You'll never hit her at that distance."

* * *

FORGOTTEN

"I thought Robinson was etiring from the office because of loss of memory?"

"That's right."

"But I saw him there to-day."

"Yes—he's forgotten all a bout it."

x x x

WHO'S WINNING

After listening patiently to the first part of an orchestral concert Johnny asked his father: "What is that book the conductor is reading?"

"That's the score, Johnny."

"Oh! Who's winning?"

* * *

THAT WAS ALL

"I don't know whether I ought to recognize him or not when I see him in the City. Our acquaintance at Brighton was very slight."

"But you promised to marry him, didn't you?"

"Yes, but that was all."

* * *

"Mean? Why, she wouldn' meet trouble half-way unle s someone paid her fare."

HEIRLOOM

"An heirloom," Johnny's mother explained, "is something that has been handed down from father to son and is usually greatly prized."

"I'd prize the heirlooms I'm wearing a bit more," remarked Johnny, "if they weren't so long in the legs!"

x x x

"Did you ever say anything like that to a girl before?" his sweetheart wanted to know—after she had accepted him.

"What!" he retorted. "You don't suppose it could be done like that the first time, do you?"

x x x

The male half of a new dance team was pleading with a producer.

"You never saw anything so sensational;" he raved. "To finish our act, I take my partner by the hair and whirl her round for exactly twenty spins. Then I wind up by heaving her through an open window."

The producer paled. "Heave her through an open window" he exclaimed, incredulously. "Do you do that at every performance?"

The young man shrugged. "Nobody's perfect," he admitted. "Sometimes I miss!"

* * *

"Yes, Simpson, your daughter is one in a thousand. She's extremely good-looking and a fine dancer. By the way, old man, could you lend me a fiver?"

"I'm sorry, old chap, but I can't—she's my former wife's child by her first husband"

* * *

ASTONISHING

"It's astonishing what love can do to some people. Take young Smith, for instance. He was telling me yesterday that he's met the one girl in the world for him, prettier than any film star, and her very name, he told me, conjures up a vision of the radiant countryside, hedgerows laden with blossom, nestling cottages, larks soaring up from flower dotted meadows, cosy forms down quiet lanes, and—all that sort of thing."

"And what's the girl's name?"

"Bull!"

x x x

"My music teacher says I have a fine voice and should go far."

x x x

A GIFT

"I am afraid, doctor," said Mrs. Brown, "that my husband has some terrible mental affliction. Sometimes I talk to him for hours and then discover that he hasn't heard a word."

"That isn't an affliction, madam," was the weary reply. "That's a gift."

SUBSTITUTE

A young teacher deputized for a friend who was on her honeymoon. A few weeks later the newly-weds and the friend were at the same party and the hostess started to introduce the groom to the wife's friend.

"Oh," he interrupted brightly, "I know Miss Rose very well. In fact, she substituted for my wife on our honeymoon!"

x x x

"Your history exercise was bad, Johnny, so I told you to write it out twenty times. You've only done it ten times."

"Yes, teacher—my arithmetic is bad, too."

* * *

"This knot in my handkerchief? Oh, that's to remind me to try to get something for my wife."

"Really? How much do you want for her?"

"Splendid! I'll help you pack."

* * *

WHAT TIME?

An actor, discussing the previous night's party, asked his wife: "Was it you I kissed on the balcony?"

The little woman thought for a moment, then countered: "About what time, dear?"

* * *

A film star was told that she knew nothing about love.

"I know lots about love," was the immediate reply. "I was extremely fond of my third husband."

x x x

"Who decides where you and your wife will go for your holidays?"

"I do, of course". She says where she'd like to go and I say. "Right! That's settled."

* * *

FAIR START

When the coast of Florida was sparsley populated and hurricanes wrecked sailing vessels on its shores, people would hurry out and "salvage" all they could from damaged vessels.

One Sunday a small boy dashed into the church service to announce that another ship had just been beached. The congregation dashed like a tidal wave for the door, when the preacher intoned pontifically: "Wait! I have but ten more words to say to you."

The impatient people shuffled restlessly, while the preacher walked to the doorknob. Placing his hand on the doorknob, he said: "Now, let us all get off to a fair start."

* * *

Burglar: "I'm really not to blame, your worship. I was foodless, friendless, homeless."

Magistrate: "My man, you move me deeply. Food, shelter and companionship shall be yours for the next nine months!"

HIS REASON

Reclining on the beach, a woman drew her husband's attention to a girl in a two piece bathing costume standing by the prom wall.

"Look at her," remarked the wife critically. "She must think she's Marilyn Monroe..."

The husband didn't even glance in her direction, but continued to lie back sunning himself on the sand.

"Aren't you interested?" urged his wife.

"Not particularly." was the laconic reply. "If she'd been anything like Marilyn Monroe, you wouldn't have asked me to have a look."

* * *

A film producer was going round the studios when he saw a face he didn't know.

"Are you on our staff?" he asked.

"Yes, sir—your brother engaged me."

"Is that so? What do you do?"

"I'm a writer."

"A writer, did you say? All right—spell something!"

* * *

Three times after buying tickets of the cinema, Smith returned and asked for new ones.

"What's the matter?" asked the girl in the box office.

"Well," replied Smith, "there's some fool upstairs keeps tearing them in half!"

x x x

It was one of those association-of-ideas Army tests where the examining officer makes a commonplace gesture and asks the recruit to fire back at him the first thought it provoked. On this occasion he waved a handkerchief.

First two men gave the formal reply. "Waving good-bye, sir," But third offered the startling retort: "Women, sir."

"Women!" echoed the officer. "What is there about waving a handkerchief that could possibly make you think of women?"

Replied the recruit blandly: "I'm always thinking of women sir."

x x x

EXPLAINED

Returning from a spiritualist meeting, a woman enthusiastically related to her husband the incidents of the evening, and recalled that at one stage the medium burst into laughter.

"I wish I'd been there," remarked the husband. "I'd have slapped her."

"Why?" exclaimed his wife, taken aback by his apparant cynicism.

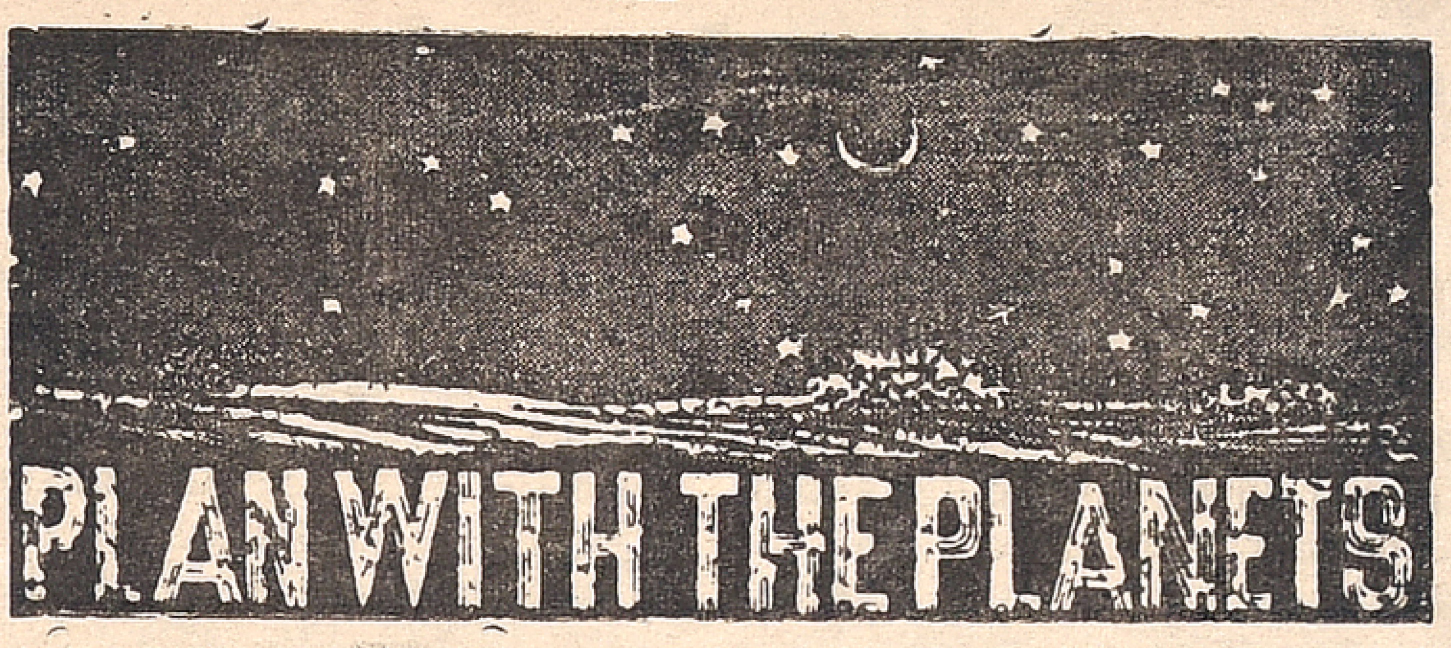
"Well," explained the husband with a twinkle, "it has always been my ambition to strike a happy medium."

* * *

EVIDENCE

"What evidence have you that the prisoner was intoxicated?"

"When asked for his name he called for a mirror and said. 'Yes, that's me.'"



For The Week 3rd, April To 9th, April 1977

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

FAVOURABLE period continues. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Partnership matters could be finalised. Favourable days : 3rd & 4th.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

FAVOURABLE period to implement your plans. You should try to re-organise your business set up to get better results. Promotional possibilities are bright. Financial position will improve But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children requires attention. You should avoid friction with brothers and sisters. Favourable days : 5th & 6th.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

FAVOURABLE period. You should try to improve your business prospects. Promotional possibilities are bright. Change of place is indicated for some. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. You should also try to avoid friction with family members. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. You may be undertaking short journeys frequently. Favourable days : 7th & 8th.

★

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to solve your problems. Business will improve. But avoid expansion programme for some more time. Also avoid change of place till the end of this month. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Financial position will be satisfactory. Property matters could be finalised. Favourable days : 3rd & 4th.

★

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to get complete relief from your present difficulties. You should be prepared for important changes in your office. There is a possibility for transfer. You should avoid friction with superiors. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children requires attention. Favourable days : 4th & 5th.

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

FAVOURABLE period. You should make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. New ventures could be launched. Promotional possibilities are bright. You will be successful in your attempts to visit foreign countries. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Family members will be cooperative. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Favourable days : 6th & 7th.

★

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to solve your major problems. Business will improve. But avoid expansion programme for some more time. Financial position will be satisfactory. Avoid speculative investments. Health requires attention. Change of place is indicated for some. You may have to undertake short journeys frequently. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children requires attention. Favourable days: 8th & 9th.

★

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

FAVOURABLE period to implement your plans. Business will improve. You should also try to start new ventures. Promotional possibilities are bright. But avoid friction with superiors. Change of place is indicated for some. Partnership matters could be finalised favourably. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Favourable days : 3rd & 4th.

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some time to get complete relief from your difficulties. Business will improve. But avoid expansion programme for some more time. Property matters could be finalised favourably. You should avoid friction with superiors. Also avoid legal complications. Family members will be cooperative. Health requires attention. Favourable days : 4th & 5th.

★

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana Dhanistha 1/2

FAVOURABLE period continues for some more time. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. Matters relating to brothers and sisters requires attention. Property transactions could be finalsed favourably. Avoid friction with family members. Financial position will not be satisfactory. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Partnership matters requires attention. Favourable days : 6th & 7th.

★

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanistha 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

FAVOURABLE period continues. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Property matters could be finalised. Family members will be :cooperative. Promotional possiblities are bright. You may have to undertake short journeys frequently. Health requires attention. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 3rd & 4th.

★

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

MIXED results are indicated. You will be able to solve some of your problems with the help of your brothers and sisters. Business will improve. But avoid expansion programme for some more time. Health will improve. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Financial position will be satisfactory. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children requires attention. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 4th & 5th.

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha-	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadra-pada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadra-pada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

Public Transport In Japanese Cities

[The continued migration of people from rural areas in Japan into major cities and industrial centres has created many problems for urban authorities. This tendency for population concentration in big cities is to be noticed all over the world, and Japan is no exception. However, it is markedly acute in Japan, and this article discussing the measures being taken to streamline and improve the nation's urban transport system should therefore be of interest to the Indian public currently facing similar problems.]

Japan's population as of March 31, 1976, stood at 112,14 ,000. Of this, 46,588,000 persons were dwelling within a 50-kilometer radius of one of the country's three largest cities Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka. That is 41.5 percent of Japan's population is concentrated in a mere 6.3 percent of its total land area.

As of the same date, the number of passenger cars totalled 17,597,000 vehicles, of which privately-owned cars accounted for 17,134,000, or one vehicle for every 6.5 persons.

The concentration of population in the big cities and the sharp increase in the number of private cars have given rise to various problems regarding such public transport systems as railroads, buses, and taxis not only in the three major urban areas, but in other large cities as well.

In particular, buses and taxis are confronted with such serious problems as declining operational efficiency due to road congestion caused by the fast-increasing volume of traffic and the shift of passengers to other means of transport, to say nothing of the need to boost transport capacity to correspond with the concentration of population.

NEW HOUSING COMPLEXES

To resolve such urban traffic problems, the Ministry of Transport is carrying out a set of measures to improve bus and taxi transport services in the big cities. These measures, which have attracted the public's attention, include the following:

Many of the new large-scale housing complexes being built in the vicinities of big cities accept accupants by stages. In the early stages, therefore demand for bus service is relatively limited and this makes it difficult to operate bus service into such areas on a profitable basis. The Ministry of Transport therefore established a system in fiscal 1973 whereby the Government, in cooperation with local public authorities concerned, compensates the losses stemming from the operation of bus service into new housing districts, provided the developers of the housing projects make due financial contributions in regard to required garages, bus stops, busses, etc.

BUS STOP FACILITIES

Since fiscal 1974, the Government, along with local public authorities, has been providing subsidies to bus operators to improve the service at bus terminals in front of major railway stations. These subsidies assist the bus companies in building shelters at the stops and in setting up route information boards at principal terminals in the Tokyo and Osaka metropolitan areas.

Late night bus services have been expanded by extending the time for the day's last bus runs and by establishing special bus fares so as to provide adequate nighttime transportotion mainly to residential areas around large cities. In addition, taxis are permitted to operate with joint ridership in suburban housing complexes late at night.

NEW BUS SYSTEM

To increase the mobility of bus service, the so called "demand bus system" has been partially introduced in Tokyo and Osaka prefectures recently. Under this system, a passenger can call for a medium-sized bus to come to any of the specified stops on the designated bus route.

Urban traffic congestion has resulted in slowing the speed of buses on regular runs and lowering their operational efficiency, inviting growing dissatisfaction with service among the general public. To solve this problem efforts are being made to increase priority and exclusive lanes and roads for buses.

As of March 1976, such lanes and roads totalled 840 sections with an aggregate length of 1,310 kilometers. An especially sharp increase was noted for bus lanes.

The "bus location system" has been developed to eliminate irritation among passengers forced to wait long periods of time at bus terminals. The system, already tested in fiscal 1973-74 is scheduled to be put into use in parts of Tokyo and Osaka from October of this year.

Under this system, wireless receivers installed along the streets about one kilometer away from the terminals catch weak radio signals from transmitters aboard passing buses, relaying the signals to a central control apparatus at the terminal, which identifies the signals and then activates indicator devices at each terminal bus stop.

There is also a system which informs passengers waiting at local bus stops along a route when a bus is approaching. As a bus nears, an indicator flashes the following messages—"Please wait a while", "The bus is now at Stop A (two stops before)," and "The bus is now at Stop B (one stop before.")

In addition to these measures, various efforts are under way to improve urban transit facilities, such as developing buses with low steps and wide doors for elderly persons and children and setting up taxicab loading stands.

—Japan Review

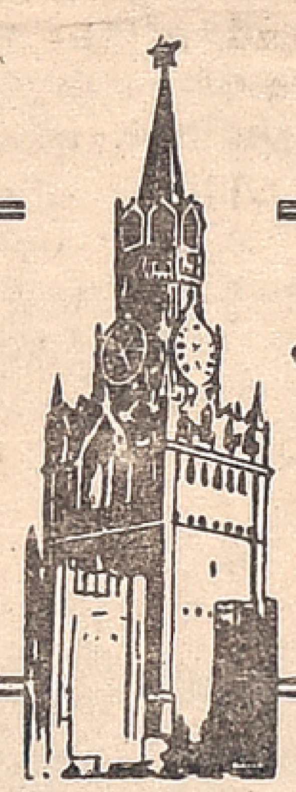
SCREW LOOSE

For several minutes the young man did not speak. His heart was too full. It was enough for him to know that this glorious creature loved him: that she had promised to be his wife.

With a new delightful sense of ownership he feasted his eyes upon her beauty.

His good fortune seemed incredible. Finally he whispered, tenderly: 'How did it happen, darling, that such a bright, shining angel, as yourself fell in love with a dull, stupid fellow like me?'

"Goodness knows," the girl murmured, absently, "I must have a screw loose somewhere."



Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

SOVIET–US RELATIONS

I was one of those who had attentively listened the other day to the speech made by Leonid Brezhnev, at the 16th Congress of the Soviet Trade Union held in Kremlin.

Among other things that Brezhenev spoke of was the need for the resumption of a positive and progressive development of Soviet-US relations and he re-emphasised it with full force in the analysis of world affairs.

Conformably to the present moment, these comments by the Soviet leader acquire special interest and significance since the new administration in the USA has commenced the practical realisation of its foreign policy programme.

The Soviet Union wishes the relations between it and the USA to be of a good neighbourly nature and that dialogue between them be constructive.

BOOKS IN INDIAN LANGUAGES

Readers will be interested to know that the Progress Publishers in Moscow are issuing literature in 13 Indian languages, including in Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu and Kannada. Every year, about 200 books are being published by them.

At present preparations are being made to bring out a two-volume "Concise World History" edited by Professor A. Manfred, in Tamil, Hindi and Urdu. Among the books already printed is one entitled "The Dilemma of Asia" by Professor R. Ulyanovsky and V. Pavlov, in which they study a large number of pressing economic problems facing the Third World countries. It is believed that Indian economists will display interest in this book.

Among the classical writers the pride of place, no doubt, belongs to Leo Tolstoy. The publishers are preparing to bring out his "Anna Karenina" in Hindi; his "Novels and Stories" in Bengali; his triology "Childhood, Boywood and Youth" in Urdu, and his "Resurrection" in Tamil and Malayalam.

Books for children also hold a special place in publishing activity.

The number of orders for Soviet books placed by Indian firms is very great. The Publishing House is receiving many letters from India which contain both favourable comments and critical remarks.

* * *

BOLSHOI THEATRE AWARDED A PEACE PRIZE

The Bolshoi Theatre, which recently celebrated its 200th anniversary, has been awarded a Peace Prize by the World Peace Council.

The award is made, the citation says, for the Bolshoi Theatre's artistic achievements and for promoting peace, friendship and understanding among nations.

The Bolshoi Ballet celebrated the centenary of Tchaikovsky's ballet Swan Lake with a dazzling performance in which Maya Plisetskaya danced Odett-Odile, with the promising young dancer Alexander Bogatyrov as the Prince.

It was filmed by Soviet Television.

The Bolshoi has given Swan Lake over 1,300 times and it will remain as popular as ever.

From page 2

Janata Cabinet: Birth Pangs

Capital as several Janata Party leaders shuttled between Wellingdon Hospital, where Mr. Charan Singh is undergoing treatment, and Mr. Jagjivan Ram's house to bring about an agreement.

Twice during the day Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit (who had joined the CFD the previous day) met Mr. Ram and Mr. Morarji Mr. Chandrasekhar, Mr. George Fernandes, Mr. L. K. Advani, and Mr. Nanaji Deshmukh were among several other leaders who were keenly trying for CFD's participation in the Cabinet.

Mr. Jayaprakash had done the spade work before, leaving Delhi for Bombay for treatment. His appeal initiated a process of introspection which seemed to have regulated in an agreement.

At one stage it looked as if the Cabinet would not be finalised today. Both Mr. Jagjivan Ram and Mr. Charan Singh were insistent on being designated Deputy Prime Minister and both had laid down the condition that there could be only one Deputy Prime Minister.

The Jan Sangh also threw its hat in the ring. Whether it was part of pressure tactics or not, this apparently worked and the proposal of Deputy Prime Ministership was dropped.

Neither Mr. Ram or Mr. Bahuguna were willing to say anything about the CFD's participation in the Government.

However, Mr. Desai presented a list of 19 Cabinet Ministers to the Acting President late in the night. In the Rastrapathi communique Mr. Charan Singh and Mr. Jagjivan Ram have been listed in the order of seniority. The other 17 (listed alphabetically) were Messrs L. K. Advani, Prakash Singh Badal, H. N. Bahuguna, Sikkandar Bakt, Shanti Bhushan, Dr. Prakash Chunder, Madhu Dandavate, Nanaji Deshmukh, Mohan Dharia, George Fernandes, Purushotham Kausik, Raj Narain, H. M. Patel, Biju Patnaik, P. Ramachandran, A. B. Vajpayee and Ravindra Varma.

This was said to the first instalment. Mr. Morarji Desai expected to complete his council of Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers in a couple of days.

The swearing-in of the Ministers is expected on Saturday morning.

On the opening day of the Lok Sabha today, Mr. Jagjivan Ram entered the house an hour late and he was led to the front of the ministerial benches by Mr. Vajpayee.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

In the morning, 14 members of the Janata Party were sworn in as Ministers. Apart from Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mr, Bahuguna CFD leaders, Mr. Raj Narain and Mr. George Fernandes were absent. Another listed member, Mr. Nanaji Deshmukh had withdrawn in favour of Mr. Brijlal Varma. The latter also didn't turn up.

As the swearing in ceremony, which was delayed by half an hour, was in progress, a CFD spokesman said that Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mr Bahuguna had "never joined the Cabinet".

When asked if the absentees had informed him in advance, Prime Minister Morarji replied: "Why do you want to go into this?"

Mr L.K. Advani, General Secretary of the Janata Party, who was also sworn in, however explained that when Mr Desai called on him last night, Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mr Bahuguna had agreed to join the Cabinet. They confirmed their decision 15 minutes later.

"Half an hour thereafter, they sought to be excused," he said.

Speaking to newsmen immediately after the first meeting of the Cabinet on Saturday, Mr Morarji Desai said, "They (CFD leaders) will come." The question of CFD joining the Cabinet would be settled very soon. The delay in joining has caused some confusion and misunderstanding. "I hope and trust everything will be sorted out."

The CFD will take a decision tomorrow in the light of an appeal from Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan to Mr Jagjivan Ram to extend cooperation and goodwill to the new Prime Minister. The appeal was conveyed through Mr Chandrasekhar.

A CFD spokesman said in the night: "We are obliged to Mr Jayaprakash Narayan for having sent us the appeal.'

In a statement issued earlier a CFD spokesman said: "We are shocked to read the news this morning that Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mr Bahuguna have joined the Union Cabinet. This is incorrect."

Mr Jagjivan Ram told a group of people in front of his residence soon after returning from Parliament that there was no cause to get disheartened. They should try to strengthen the CFD, he said.

"I am grateful for your love and affection," he added.

He was accompanied by Mr Bahuguna and Mr Biju Patnaik. After Biju left, Mr N.G. Goray and Mr S.M. Joshi came for talks. Mr Bahuguna rushed out of the residence to address a crowd that had gathered. He pleaded with them to desist from demonstrations or raising slogans against anyone.

Mr Kishorlal, CFD member from Delhi, who also addressed the gathering outside, said Mr Jagjivan Ram was having long distance phone talks with Mr Jayaprakash Narayan, hospitalised in Bombay.

"You may go home. No need to be worried," he told the gathering.

The following is the free translation of Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan's appeal to Mr. Jagjivan Ram which was in Hindi. Mr. Chandra Shekhar, Janata Party leader, released it to the Press.

"I understand your feelings and respect them. However, in the present circumstances, your full co-operation is absolutely essential in the interest of the nation. Therefore, I humbly request you to extend your cooperation and goodwill to the new Prime Minister. This will also add to your prestige. You are not a mere individual but a political and social force without whose co-operation building of new India is impossible".

Mr. Charan Singh, Deputy Chairman of the Janata Party, has directed Mr. Raj Narain to join the Union Cabinet "with a view to providing a stable government at the Centre and serve the interest of the country and also aspirations of the people of Rae Bareli."

According to a Press release issued by the party, Mr. Charan Singh said Mr. Raj Narain should not shirk responsibility to serve the people on the plea of his personal desire to remain out of the office.

Mr. Kuldip Nayar Reports: It was just before 2 a.m. on Saturday morning soon after the names of Cabinet Ministers came on the Samachar ticker, when Mr. Jagjivan Ram rang Mr. Morarji Desai's house to express to him his inability to join the Cabinet.

What appeared to have irked Mr. Jagjivan Ram was that the announcement contained 19 names instead of the 12 agreed earlier in the day.

At midnight, following hectic activity, everything appeared to have been sewn up. A small committee Dicked up the thread from where Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan had left it. A compromise was reached between Mr. Charan Singh and Mr. Jagjivan Ram.

It was agreed that Cabinet meetings held in the absence of Mr. Desai would be presided over by Mr. Charan Singh because his name took precedence in the alphabetic order. On the other hand, Mr. Jagjivan Ram would be the leader of the House.

It was also agreed that the major parties of the ruling alliance would have two members each in the Cabinet: BLD represented by Mr. Charan Singh and Mr. Raj Narain whose inclusion was made an issue by Mr. Charan Singh; Jana Sangh by Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee and Mr. L.K. Advani; CFD by Mr. Jagjivan Ram and Mr Bahuguna, Congress (O) by Mr. P. Ramachandran and Mr. Sikander Bakht, and the socialist by Mr. George Fernandes and Mr. Mohan Dharia. Two other proposed ministers were Mr. Purshottam Kaushik and Mr. Prakash Singh Bada. These were the 12 names.

Mr. Bahuguna, who had always reservations about joining the Cabinet, was only too happy when Mr. Jagjivan Ram finally said 'no'.

Mr. Fernandes who had played a crucial role in bringing round Mr. Jagjivan Ram also thought it advisable to decline. Presumably, he calculated that by staying out he would be in a better position to persuade Mr. Jagjivan Ram to change his mind. Mr. Nanaji, Deshmukh also close to Mr. Jagivan Ram took a similar view and proposed that his place in the Cabinet should go to Mr. Brij Lal Varma.

Samachar adds: A group of 100 youngmen demonstrated for a while around noon today at the main entrance to the Parliament House urging the four reluctant ministers designate to take their oath of office.

Mean while Mr. George Fernandes, who was appointed a Cabinet Minister last night but refused to be sworn in this morning, was gheraoed by scores of people in the small, steamy Socialist Party office as Vithalbhai house today.

After the gherao had gone on for two hours Mr Fernandes was finally allowed to speak. He climbed on to the office table and asked for silence.

Mr. Fernandes said there were two alternatives open to him—to join or not to join. A person of his temperament was unsuited for office. His intention all along had been to decline office. But at 9 pm last night he was summoned and told that his joining the Cabinet would help remove some of the rift and tension. So he agreed.

Till 5 a.m., he said he was trying to bring the disgruntled parties together. When he went back to them at 7 a.m. today, he found there was no progress. He then decided to stay away from the swearing in.

Mr. Fernandes also said there was no relation between working for the national good and holding office. Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan never stood for election nor held office.

However, he reiterated that he was part and parcel of the Janata Party, and that Mr. Morarji Desai was his leader. There was no threat to the Janata Government, and no one would be allowed to topple it. It would function without any problem.

MRS. PANDIT QUITS CFD

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit has announced her decision 'not to continue' as a member of the Congress for Democracy or to join any other party.

In a statement, she said that early this week, she had joined the Congress for Democracy in the belief that 'it was about to merge with the Janata Party and work unitedly in the interests of the people'.

'This is a delicate moment in the history of our country and nothing should be done which in any way complicates the situation and gives people cause for conjecture. The need of the hour is unity at all levels - for this reason I have decided not to continue as a member of the Congress for Democracy or to

Contd. on page 8)

FILM NEWS

Kalaikoyil Revived

KALAIKOYIL, in Tamil, was written and directed by that master of filmic art, Sridhar. He would not compromise on a cheap box office formula for an artistic film. And KALAIKOYIL is one of his master-pieces that failed at the box office on its first showing. It was later appreciated by one and all.

Produced a decade ago by Bhagyalakshmi Productions, the film is being revived at half a dozen theatres in the city and many centres all over the South, for the benefit of the enw generation by Sri Amudha Fimss, Madras.

The film glorifies the divine art of playing the Veena, the most perfect musical instrument. Sridhar with much confidence made Chittibabu, one of the greatest players of Veena to present the melodicus beauty of the sound of music that flows from the divine instrument. And Chittibabu did not fail him.

The story is about a Veena vidwan who even sacrifices his life so that the tradition set by him for playing Veena is continued in the future by his son.

As for the acting honours it is S. V. Subbiah who scores as the Veena vidwan. The joy, sorrow, anger, love and affection towards his family members, the shock he received when his son makes him promise that he would not touch the Veena, are all vividly portrayed by Subbiah.

Muthuraman acts as his adopted son and sishya. Chandrakantha, as Kamala, has given a fine performance and Rajasri, as Saroja, has equally done well. V. Gopalakrishnan, as Saroja's secretary, is good.

It is refreshing to see Nagesh in his form. He sparkles with his wit and humour. Jamuna acts as his wife.

Two of the songs, composed by Kannadasan and set to tune M. S. Viswanathan are of high class.

Deviyin Thirumanam

K.R. Vijaya and Muthuraman lead the cast of "Deviyin Thirumanam" directed by P. Madhavan for Santhi Chitra. The shooting of the film is in full swing and it is expected to be released in the month of May.

Padmapriya, Vijayakumar, Thengai Srinivasan, V S. Raghavan S.V. Ramadas, Y.G Mahendra and S.N. Lakshmi are in supporting roles.

Rajakumari, a student of the Film Chambers' Institute, is being introduced in this film in an important role.

Malliyam Rajagopal is writing the story and dialogue.

P.N. Sundram is in charge of photography and M.S. Viswanathan scores the musical notes.

Muthuraman, K. R. Vijaya, Nagesh, 'Thengai' Srinivasan and A. Sakunthala in Devar's "Muruganadimai."

From page 7

Janata Cabinet: Birth Pangs

join any other party. I shall, however, continue as before to extend my full co-operation to the Janata Party and its associates including the Congress for Democracy," she said.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

After a meeting of the executive of the CFD, Mr. Jagjivan Ram announced that he and Mr. Bahuguna will join the Cabinet. The two day stalemate then ended.

However it was announced that the CFD will join the Janata Party in Parliament but will retain its separate identity outside.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram issued the following statement:

"When I resigned from the Cabinet and the Indian National Congress on 2nd February, 1977, I did so for the resurrection of democracy. The people of my country responded massively and magnificently to my call. The people now have great expectations from the new government.

The happenings of the last few days and the controversies in the Press have caused me great anguish. During this period I have scrupulously avoided saying anything to the Press.

'Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narain, father of the new resurgent movement in the country, is not only the architect of the present unity among various political parties but is a visionary of a new India. I regard it as a great encouragement to me besides being a compliment which I imm nsely prize that he feels that my services are essential for building of a new India.

'My relations with Jaya Prakash Babu are so intimate and my regards for him so great that the wish amounts to a directive for me. Keeping in view the appeal he had made to me and also the love my countrymen have so lavishly been showing to me and the expectations that they have from me I place myself without any reservations in the hands of the Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai irrespective of what work and what place he allots to me".

A Rashtrapathi Bhavan communique said Mr. Jagjivan Ram has been allotted the the Defence portfolio. Mr. H. N. Bahuguna got the portfolio of Chemicals and Fertilisers.

Meanwhile, Mr. George Fernandes, who has been debating during the last two days "to be or not to be" in M. Morarji Desai Cabinet, ultimately decided to join the cabinet. A similar decision was tak n by Mr. Raj Narain also. The former got Communications while the latter got Health and Family Planning.

Mr. Kuldip Nayar reports:

When Mr. Jagjivan Ram rang up Mr. Morarji Desai this morning to inform him that he would join the Cabinet "without any reservations" he did more than respond to Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan's appeal. He bowed to the wishes of the people.

It was quite a courageous decision for a person who by siding with the Janata during the elections had made all the difference and who could have exacted an appropriate price for having done so. But when he realised that his decision not to join the Cabinet had pained both J. P. and the nation, he felt he had no choice. Everything else—the ranking and the portfolio—paled into insignificance; the office was a means to an end, not an end in itself.

But it was quite a struggle. And he fought it alone. He even requested his family members to leave him alone by himself for the night. He did not have a wink of sleep. J. P.'s message that he was not just an individual but a force "without which it is not possible to build a new India" was a constant thought.

It was 4 am on Sunday when the struggle was over. He assembled his family members and told them that he had decided to place himself at the disposal of the new Prime Minister for the country's sake.

Later, he called his close friends—Mr. Nanaji Deshmukh, Mr. Fernandes and Mr. Madhu Limaye. He told them whatever J. P. wanted, he would do because he was the leader. He said he was touched by J. P.'s faith in him.

When the family members and friends assembled at the breakfast table to celebrate Mr. Jagjivan Ram's decision, he reached the telephone to call Mr. Desai.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Mr. H. N. Bahuguna, Mr. George Fernandes, Mr. Raj Narain and Mr. Brijlal Varma were sworn-in today.

Mr. Raj Narain broke the protocol and distributed 'peda' (prasad) to all his Cabinet colleagues as also the Acting President Jatti who in turn fed a peda to Mr. Narain with his own hands before administering the oath of office.

An admiral—a stickler for uniform—stopped opposite a very portly sailor whose medal ribbon was an inch or so too low. Fixing the man with his eye, the admiral asked: "Did you get that medal for eating, my man?"

On the man replying, "No, sir," the admiral rapped out, "Then why the deuce do you wear it on your stomach?"

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